



John Reich Journal

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JRCS

JOHN REICH COLLECTORS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1680 Windham, ME 04062

The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the study of numismatics, particularly United States gold and silver coins minted before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and educational information concerning such coins.

Annual dues\$25.00
 Life Membership\$625.00

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members in good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of numismatics and / or relating to early United States gold and silver coins to the editors. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, die states of published die marriages, attribution methods, collections, collectors, etc.

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Cover Photos: The 1800 LM-2 pictured exhibits catastrophic obverse die damage prior to striking this coin which would fall under the rim to rim cud definition, which is the rarest type of cud found on coinage. A flake or piece of the die fell off, perhaps because of a lamination that detached or from a significant impact to the obverse die from a foreign piece of metal that was struck by the die during coinage. Of the eight to ten known examples from this die pairing, this is the only example to exhibit this unique rim to rim cud or any hint of its appearance on the known examples. It was purchased by Jim Matthews in 1990 and sold to Jules Reiver with the right to repurchase the coin at a later date. It is PCGS VG-8 with a CAC sticker. It has always been one of the favorite coins in my collection.

Photos courtesy of Bill Noyes, Jim Matthews Collection.

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Editor's Comments

Spring has sprung and the snow and ice have melted. Flowers are poking their buds from the ground and a numismatists fancy turns to the show season with the promise of new acquisitions for their collections. News has reached our ears of a newly identified 1817/14 half dollar and an 1827 JR14 dime. Maybe the owners of these rarities will be willing to submit an article for the next issue about their exciting discoveries.

The annual EAC/JRCS convention is on the horizon. The convention will be held May 1-4 at the Doubletree hotel in Colorado Springs, CO. You can still make arrangements to attend by calling the hotel at 719-576-8900. The annual happening room for silver coins will feature the following die marriages for study; 1829 LM18, 1824 JR1 & 2, 1818 B9, 1814 O106, 1827 O108, and 1798 BB110. Please bring your coins for study at the convention.

We are still in need of some volunteers to man the tables at the happening. Each of the die marriages are displayed for comparison and someone is needed to monitor the coins for each denomination. Please let me know if you are willing to help. The happenings begin after the reception on Thursday evening and continue until late in the evening.

The annual meeting of the JRCS will occur at the annual ANA convention in Chicago this August on Wednesday the 6th at 8AM. If you are planning on attending the convention we would enjoy seeing you there. There will be an educational presentation at the meeting as well as announcement of the latest HOF members, the winner of the Jules Reiver Literary Award and the election of officers.

That being said, we are currently accepting nominations for this year's HOF voting. You can nominate collectors from both the veteran and modern categories. The veteran category is for collectors that contributed to our niche of the hobby before the advent of the JRCS and the modern category is for collectors that have been a member of the organization. Please contact Richard Meaney with your nominations as soon as possible.

You will also find enclosed a ballot for the Jules Reiver Literary Award for volume 23 of the journal. You may vote for up to 3 articles from last year's issues. The winner will be announced at the annual convention and they will be presented with a plaque to commemorate their achievement.

We are always looking for submissions to fill future issues of the JRJ. Please consider submitting something for publication in your journal. You will qualify for the Jules Reiver Literary Award voting as well as supporting your club.

Half dollar collectors are reminded to submit their early half dollar census to Steve Herrman for inclusion in the census which will be printed in the next issue. Submission guidelines are listed below. Now, have a great time enjoying this issue of the journal and we hope to see you at a convention soon.

NOTICE

Pre Turban Half Dollar Census information is now being solicited for inclusion in the next issue of the **John Reich Journal**. Please email your complete inventory listing (Including ALL duplicates and die states) of your Bust Halves dated 1794-1807 or any questions to:

Steve Herrman at herrman102@aol.com

Or, via fax to: Steve Herrman 303-989-6393

Please Respond promptly to ensure inclusion of your collection in this Census.

FUN 2014: Highlights from an Extraordinary Sale of Capped Bust Half Dimes

By Richard Meaney

When David Perkins asked me if I would be willing to help him conduct a sealed bid auction of Capped Bust Half Dimes at the 2014 FUN Show, I jumped at the chance. I learned that Perkins had agreed with a consignor to offer a nearly-complete, long-held collection of Capped Bust Half Dimes for sale in two formats and in two stages. There would be a sealed bid sale of 24 lots and a fixed price sale of about 40 lots at the FUN Show and then a repeat of this format at the 2014 ANA Show in Rosemont, Illinois.

My role would be to serve as a "subject matter expert" and assist potential bidders in examining and assessing the coins...and I had a great time doing just that! One aspect of the auction and fixed price listing that I did not have the opportunity to contribute to was an in-hand inspection of the coins in advance of the FUN Show and the catalog descriptions for the coins. Certainly, in an ideal world, I would have seen all of the coins in advance. However, the limited time available prevented that from being possible. I do think that had I received the coins in advance, I would have wanted to keep a few for twenty years or so and just have sent a blank check back to David.

I want to spend some time describing the fixed price portion of the sale, as there were some very nice coins available. Dave Perkins gave every interested person an opportunity to purchase their first choice from the list, based on the order in which requests were received. I was fortunate to receive my first choice, an 1830 LM-4.1 in a PCGS AU58 (CAC) holder. There were many other beautifully-toned, lustrous, and difficult to find half dimes available in the fixed price sale.

Some spectacular coins on the fixed price list would have otherwise made for great auction coins, but the desire to keep the quantity of auction coins at a manageable level forced some decisions to be made that many nice coins would be sold via fixed prices. For example, the sale contained an 1829 LM-4 in PCGS MS63 (CAC) that David described with the glowing phrases, "obverse and reverse are toned in beautiful shades of gold and gray, with touches of light blue toning at the dentils. This is a premium example for the date, die marriage, and grade." The coin was priced well over "trends" for the date and grade, but it was so spectacular (and it is so very difficult to find this die marriage in mint state grades) that there were three

or four people who were willing to be first in line to pay the ask price on the coin... yes, it was THAT nice!

The fixed price sale was really just an appetizer before the main course: the sealed bid auction. The sealed bid auction was a sumptuous offering of rare half dime die marriages, remarriages, tough die states (with some retained and full cuds), and plate coins from **"Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837"** by Russell J. Logan and John W. McCloskey. Many coins in the sealed bid auction were wonderfully toned, lustrous, and in the condition census for their respective die marriage or remarriage. Truly, to a "Bust Half Dime Nut" like me, the auction lots were simply awesome! Rather than go into detail about every one of the 24 lots in the sealed bid auction. Instead, I wanted to highlight just six of them that I thought were extra special.

Lot 103 was an 1829 LM-12 half dime in a PCGS AU55 holder that is also the plate coin from **"Federal Half Dimes 1792-1837"** (page 157). This die marriage is a R6 (approximately 13-30 examples thought to exist), with this particular coin placing in the condition census among the top five known for the die marriage. My experience told me that Logan-McCloskey plate coins should sell for at least \$1,000, regardless of grade or rarity. As I showed the coin to collectors at the FUN Show and we discussed valuation, consensus was reached that this coin would bring very strong money. That consensus proved true, as the coin realized more than \$4,700 (including a fifteen percent buyer's premium).

Lot 108 was an 1830 LM-5 (early die state, prior to formation of the obverse cud) in a PCGS F15 holder. Formerly an R7 die marriage, this strong R6 die marriage is absent from many collections – especially in problem-free condition. My research shows that of the maybe 18 or so known examples of this die marriage, there appears to be an equal distribution of coins in the early die state (pre-cud) and the late die state (cud formed vicinity stars 5 and 6). In showing this coin, there was significant agreement among many collectors (me included) that this coin was under graded. Grade estimates ranged from F18 to VF20. Discussion of past prices paid for problematic examples (cleaned, bent, or scratched) of this rare die marriage with other collectors led me to believe that this coin should sell for \$2,000-\$2,500. I am sure the winning bidder was surprised – and thrilled, to win this coin for slightly more than \$1,500. This was perhaps the greatest "bargain" in the auction!

Lot 114 was an 1833 LM-2 in a PCGS AU55 holder. The die marriage is quite rare and very tough in higher grades. In fact, there is only one mint state example known. This R6 specimen is drop-dead beautiful, tied for second in the condition census, lustrous, toned in gray, gold, and blue and in a nutshell, everything a collector would want in a rare half dime. Every person that viewed this coin in hand heaped great praise upon it. In discussions on valuation, I shared my thoughts that this coin could very well be the highest priced in the auction. At a price realized just below \$7,000, it turned out that my prediction was correct. This price was no anomaly. At the Jules Reiver auction in 2006, the only known mint state example of this die marriage (a very pretty NGC MS62) sold for \$10,350! It would seem that the PCGS AU55 in this auction sold at the right level. In my opinion, the new owner of this coin won a "centerpiece specimen" for his collection.

Lot 120 was an 1835 LM-4 in a PCGS MS62 (CAC) holder and it featured a cud over UNI of UNITED on the reverse. Although the cud is not a terribly rare one (I estimate that coins with this cud are R5, approximately 31-75 extant), this coin is very special. First, the coin is quite lustrous, though devoid of significant color. Second, and most importantly, the cud on this coin was unlike any other I had ever seen. There was no doubt in my mind or in the minds of the many collectors who viewed the coin that this was not a retained cud but an honest-to-goodness full cud. The cud was so impressive that words cannot adequately describe its beauty. It looked to me almost as if someone had dropped some silver solder onto the coin to create such a fresh-looking shimmering cud with no equal. Yes, you had to see it to believe it...it was that nice! I was not surprised that this special coin brought more than \$2,300 in the auction.

Lot 121 was a spectacular 1836 LM-1.1, a R5 remarriage in a PCGS AU58 (CAC) holder. This coin had been in the consignor's collection for nearly thirty years and was only recently submitted for grading. What can I say about this beauty?

It had it all: luster, color, rarity, a number of die cracks, overall exceptional eye appeal, and a place near the top of the condition census. All who viewed the coin found it very appealing. Were this a "normal" PCGS AU58 Capped Bust Half Dime "type coin" one might expect it to sell for around \$500. With all this coin had going for it, I was not surprised to see it sell for slightly more than \$3,600 to one very lucky collector.

The last lot in the sealed bid auction, lot 123, was an 1837 LM-3. This strong R5 die marriage was recently downgraded from R6 status. The specimen up

for auction was in a PCGS AU50 holder showing the typical weak strike on the reverse. This coin exhibited typical luster for the grade and was toned in a medium gray. A factor that some collectors might consider when evaluating this coin is that many examples of this die marriage have surfaced in recent years, making the die marriage itself "less special" than it used to be. However, when one considers that this die marriage has no known mint state examples; that the finest known specimen is an AU58; that the examples surfacing over the past few years have generally been problem coins in the VG to VF range; and that the two most recent auction records are for a PCGS VF35 example at almost \$1,100 and the Reiver example (NCS VF details at more than \$2,700), then one realizes that this coin is truly special. Strong bidding achieved a sale price of more than \$3,700!

One thing I haven't discussed so far was the auction format, other than the auction being "sealed bid" style. Perkins stated that high bids would be reduced to ten percent over the underbidder's bid, as a mechanism to ensure that people could put in strong bids for the coins they really wanted, but pay less if the competition wasn't as significant as the top bidder thought it might be. For example, if someone bid \$5,000 for a coin, but the underbidder was at just \$2,500, the hammer price was reduced to ten percent over the \$2,500 mark, which is \$2,750. With the fifteen percent buyer's premium, the winning bidder would need only pay \$3,162.50 for a coin he was originally willing to pay \$5,750 for (with buyer's premium). Pretty good arrangement if you ask me. Of the six lots I highlighted, I noted that three of these lots had significant bid reductions. On lot 103 (1829 LM-12 in AU55), the high bid was \$6,911 and the underbidder was \$3,750, resulting in a hammer of \$4,125 (\$4,743.75 "all in") – a significant savings for the winning bidder. Similarly, lot 114 (1833 LM-2 in AU55) had a high bid of \$6,711 and an underbid of just \$5,500 and lot 121 (1836 LM-1.1 in AU58) had a high bid of \$4,750 and an underbid of just \$2,875 – both of these winning bidders also saved more than a thousand dollars due to the bid reductions!

Finally, I wanted to offer some final remarks based on my participation in this auction. I was an agent of David Perkins at the show, but am an active collector of Capped Bust Half Dimes, so I thought it was important for me to submit my bids BEFORE I provided any advice to prospective bidders. I didn't want to create a situation that appeared to be inappropriate or otherwise improper. Accordingly, I submitted my bids early on Thursday morning (the first day of the

show), before the show was open to the public. As I showed coins in the sealed bid auction to collectors and discussed the characteristics of each coin and delved into my knowledge of prices realized for similar examples, I soon decided that my bids had absolutely no chance of winning. Discussions with other collectors centering on valuation proved to be quite a helpful exercise, for as a group we were able to accurately predict the range of prices realized for the auction coins. My bids were blown out of the water on the coins I wanted for my collection, but I learned two good lessons. First, it is a good idea to discuss values with other specialists prior to committing to a bid in an auction. Second (and maybe more important?), next time I need to save my money for a while so that I can bid thermonuclear on the ones I want to win!

Speaking of next time, Dave Perkins does plan for part two of the fixed price listing and sealed bid auction of Capped Bust Half Dimes to take place at the August ANA Show in Rosemont, Illinois. I will do my best to be at the show and hope to work with Dave again as he showcases what I expect to be more great coins. Fair notice to Capped Bust Half Dime collectors, I've learned my lessons from this auction and will go after the coins I want much more fiercely in August!



1835 LM-1 Late Die State Logan-McCloskey Plate Coin
PCGS AU55, CAC, PR \$2160



1829 LM-14 PCGS MS-61, PR \$950



1829 LM-16.1 PCGS AU58, Plate Coin, PR \$1075

Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis - Red, White & Blue

Part 2

By David Finkelstein

Introduction

The Heraldic Eagle reverse is closely linked to the Great Seal of the United States. In my JRJ article titled “*Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis – Red, White & Blue – Part 1*”, I also linked the Heraldic Eagle reverse to the United States flag. The flag has a blue union (the upper left corner) and the Heraldic Eagle reverse has a blue Chief (top horizontal band of the shield). Both have stars. Both have red and white stripes.

Since the first Flag Act of 1777, two additional flag acts (1794 and 1818) were signed into law in an attempt to improve and standardize our nation’s flag. Likewise, since its beginning in 1796, changes were made by the Mint in an attempt to improve and standardize the Heraldic Eagle reverse. Many of the changes to the Heraldic Eagle reverse have already been documented and pictured in my previous JRJ articles. Some will be identified in this article. More will be identified in future articles.

We will never know whether changes to the Heraldic Eagle reverse were implemented by Chief Engraver Robert Scot on his own, or after he collaborated with Mint personnel and obtained the approval of the Director of the Mint. Since the design elements were added, modified and removed with forethought, one could say that they were done with the “*artistic license*” of their creator(s).

Likewise, the flags of the United States, even though defined by acts of Congress, were implemented with the “*artistic license*” of their creators. Since 1775, there have been 224 variants of the United States flag.¹ In 2000, David Martucci identified 25 different flags that were made out of cloth, and 16 different flags that were sketched, painted or engraved in contemporary documents, or engraved on medals after the first Flag Act of June 14, 1777 and before the United States Mint struck its first copper coins in 1793.²

This article will attempt to show that implementing a “*figure or representation of an eagle, with this inscription, ‘UNITED STATES OF AMERICA’*”³ was just as difficult to implement as a flag “*of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; [and] that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field*”.⁴

Artistic License: Flags

Between 1775 and 1777, there were multiple continental flag designs that were comprised of the colors red, white and blue. Since there was no official or standard flag, the flags were derivatives of the British Union Jack (which first appeared in 1606).¹ None of the early continental flags contained stars. That changed with the Flag Act of June 14, 1777:

“Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation”.

The first stripe color mentioned in the Flag Act of 1777 was red. The number of stripes was to be 13. Not only was the first color on flags not always red, the number of stripes was not always 13. Of the 25 different actual cloth flags made between 1775 and 1793:

- 15 flags had red & white stripes (from the bottom up),
- 4 flags had white & red stripes (from the bottom up),
- 1 flag had red & blue stripes (from the bottom up),
- 3 flags had red, white & blue stripes (from the bottom up),
- 1 flag had red, white & blue stripes (from the top down), and
- 1 flag had random red, white & blue stripes (in no discernable pattern).

In addition:

- 4 flags had no stars,
- 2 flags had 4 pointed stars,
- 7 flags had 5 pointed stars,
- 4 flags had 6 pointed stars,
- 7 flags had 8 pointed stars, and
- 1 flag had mixed 5, 6, 7 and 8 pointed stars.

Just to make things a little different:

- 1 flag had a fleur-de-lis in the union,
- 1 flag had holes in the middle of the stars, and
- the Guilford Court House flag (flown at the Battle of Guilford Court House in Greensboro, North Carolina on March 15, 1781) had 14 stripes (7 red and 7 blue), and a white union with blue stars (and not a blue union with white stars).¹

There are two flags of special interest to numismatists. The first is a black and white sketch that appeared in Abraham Weatherwise's *Town and Country Almanack*; published in Boston, 1782. This flag has 13 five-pointed dark stars in a white union and 29 horizontal stripes (15 light and 14 dark). Note that Abraham Weatherwise was the pseudonym of David Rittenhouse, who 10 years later was appointed as the first Director of the United States Mint in April, 1792. See Figure 1.



Figure 1 –Abraham Weatherwise's Town & Country Almanack, 1782

The second flag of interest is the frontispiece of *Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati*, published by John Steele, Philadelphia, 1785. The flag contains 13 white stars in a dark union, with 7 dark and 6 white horizontal stripes. The engraving was done by Robert Scot, who at the time was a Philadelphia copper-plate printer, and not the Chief Engraver of the United States Mint. See Figure 2.



Figure 2 - Frontispiece - Society of the Cincinnati, 1785

When President Washington signed the second Flag Act into law on January 13, 1794, there were 15 states, therefore the second official version of the flag of the United States was to have “*fifteen stripes alternate red and white [and] That the Union be fifteen stars, white in a blue field*”.⁵ So that was 8 red and 7 white stripes, yes? Unfortunately, no. Once again, the flags were open to artistic license by their creators. Although there were fewer variants of the flag created from the second Flag Act as compared to the first Flag Act, there were still major deviations:

- Many new flags still had 13 stripes and not 15 stripes.
- One flag had 13 alternating red, white and blue stripes.
- Flags had 4, 5 or 8 pointed stars.
- The Easton Pennsylvania Flag, now displayed at the Easton Public Library, has 7 red and 6 white horizontal stripes in the union (where all other flags have their stars). The remainder of the flag is blue (where all other flags have their red and white stripes). The blue field has 12 – 8 pointed white stars arranged in a circle with 1 – 8 pointed white star in the center of the 12 surrounding stars.¹
- The General Schuyler Flag, which is at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, has 7 white and 6 red stripes. There is an eagle in a blue union. The eagle holds 3 arrows in its left claw and an olive branch in its right claw. Above the eagle are 13 white stars, and a white ribbon with the inscription E PLURIBUS UNUM. The eagle has a shield on its chest. The shield has a blue Chief, with 9 red and 8 white vertical stripes.¹

The Eagle’s Shield: A Closer Look

Figure 3 is an image of the shield on an Heraldic Eagle Bust Half Dollar reverse. The Heraldic components (*chief* and *pales*) and colors (*gules*, *argent* and *azure*) are identified. Note: in this section, Heraldic terms are *italicized*.

In Heraldry, *tinctures* (or colors) are divided into:

- *Metals* (or *light tinctures* – yellow and white),
- *Colours* (or *dark tinctures* – blue, red, purple, black, and green),
- *Stains* (or *nonstandard dark tinctures* – murrey, sanguine and tenné), and
- *Furs* (or patterns).

The background of the *escutcheon* (or shield) is called the *field*. *Pales* (or vertical stripes) can be placed “upon” the *field* of the *escutcheon*. The *tinctures* of the *escutcheon* cannot violate the *Rules of Tincture*:

1. *metal* should not be placed upon *metal*, and
2. *colour* should not be placed upon *colour*.

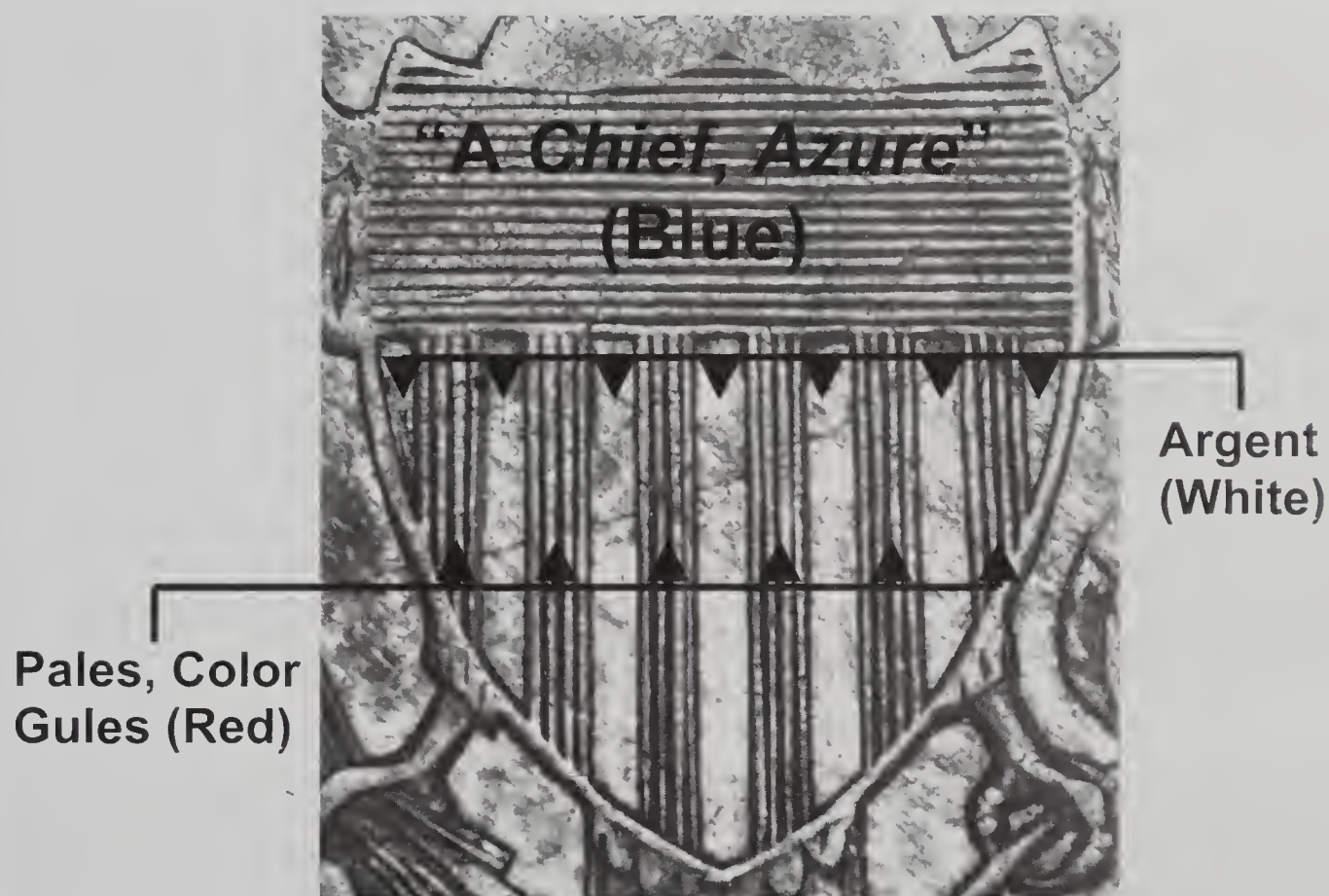


Figure 3 - Shield of 1803 50C Reverse B

Per Heraldry, the red *pales* are placed “upon” the white *field* of the shield. This gives the appearance of red and white stripes. This also adheres to the *Rules of Tincture* by having a *colour* (red or *gules*) placed “upon” a *metal* (white or *argent*).

Artistic License: Heraldic Eagle Reverse Pale / Argent Configurations

There are 6 different pale / argent configurations for the 179 known Heraldic Eagle reverse dies. One configuration violates the Rules Of Tincture.

(1) 0 Red / 16 White: The pales were engraved as solid vertical bars on the reverse dies that were mated with 1796 and 1797 dated \$2 ½ Quarter Eagle head dies¹. See Figure 4. Per Heraldry, a solid (or blank) area represents argent (or white), therefore the engraver placed 8 white pales upon a white background. This violates the Rules of Tincture by placing a metal upon a metal. It is obvious that the intent was to create 8 red and 8 white vertical stripes, however, the implementation was not correct.

The 0 red / 16 white configuration occurred on 4 of the 179 Heraldic Eagle reverse dies. This configuration is considered an experiment (and was also a mistake).

Tennessee officially became the 16th state on June 1, 1796. The first delivery of Quarter Eagles was made on September 21, 1796. Since I believe that the 16 stripes in the shield represent the 16 states, I am naming this pale / argent configuration the States Configuration.

(2) 8 Red / 8 White: There were 8 pales (colour gules) and 8 argent areas, or 8 red and 8 white vertical stripes, on the reverse dies that were mated with 1795 and 1797 dated \$5 Half Eagle head dies.^{1,6} See Figure 5. The leftmost pale had 2 lines for the colour gules, and the next 7 pales had 3 lines for the colour gules. Note that David Martucci identified 53 different United States flags prior to 1799.² None of these flags contain 16 stripes.

The 8 red / 8 white configuration occurred on 3 of the 179 Heraldic Eagle reverse dies. This configuration was also an experiment. Had this not been an experiment, more dies with this configuration would be known. This pale / argent configuration has the States Configuration (and is correctly implemented).

(3) 7 Red / 6 White: There were 7 pales (colour gules) and 6 argent areas, or 7 red and 6 white vertical stripes, on reverse dies that were mated with \$10 Eagle head dies¹ dated 1797 and 1798. See Figure 6. The leftmost and rightmost pale each had 2 lines for the colour gules. The middle 5 pales had 3 lines for the colour gules.

The 7 red / 6 white configuration occurred on 3 of the 179 Heraldic Eagle reverse dies, therefore this configuration is considered an experiment.

The Flag Acts of 1777, 1794 and 1818 specified 13, 15 and 13 horizontal stripes respectively, alternating red and white. This defined the standard of more red stripes than white stripes in the flag. I am therefore naming this configuration the Flag Configuration.

(4) 6 Red / 7 White: There were 6 pales (colour gules) and 7 argent areas, or 6 red and 7 white vertical stripes on 169 of the 179 Heraldic Eagle reverse dies. Beginning in 1798, this was the standard for all Heraldic Eagle reverse dies.

Note that this configuration is the opposite of the 7 red and 6 white standard for flags, and matched the pale / argent configuration on the Great Seal of the United States. I am therefore naming this configuration the Great Seal Configuration.

The 6 pale / 7 argent configuration was implemented with 3, 4 or 5 vertical lines in each pale to represent the colour gules.

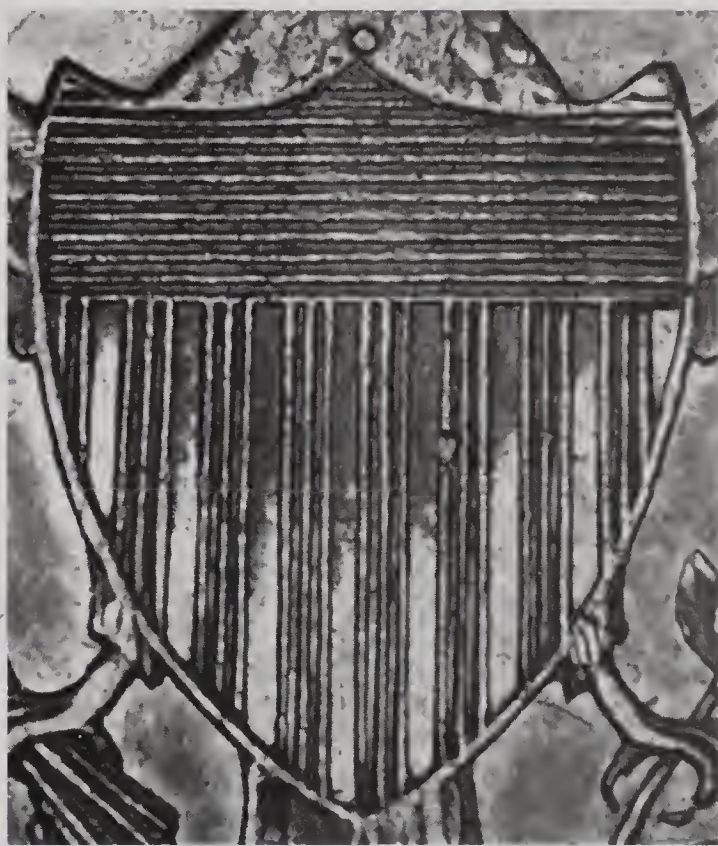
- **(4a) Pales with 3 vertical lines** were engraved on reverse dies used to strike the smaller diameter coins: all Half Dimes dated 1800 – 1805, all Dimes dated 1798 – 1807, all Quarters dated 1804 – 1807, all \$2 ½ Quarter Eagles dated 1798 – 1807, and all but one

of the \$5 Half Eagles dated 1798 – 1807. See Figure 7. This configuration occurred on 66 of the 179 Heraldic Eagle reverse dies.

- **(4b)** Pales with 4 vertical lines were engraved on reverse dies used to strike the larger diameter coins: all Half Dollars dated 1801 – 1807, all but 2 of the reverse dies used to strike the business strike Dollars dated 1798 – 1803, BB (for Bowers Borckardt) Reverse X (used to strike the 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1804 Class 1 Proof Bust Dollars), BB Reverse Y (used to strike the 1804 Class 2 and 3 Bust Dollars), 1798 \$5 Reverses A & F, all business strike \$10 Eagles dated 1799 – 1804, and the Proof only 1804 \$10 Eagle. See Figure 8. This configuration occurred on 101 of the 179 Heraldic Eagle reverse dies.
- **(4c)** Pales with 5 vertical lines were engraved on only 2 reverse dies, therefore this configuration was an experiment. Both are Bust Dollar reverse dies first used with 1799 dated head dies¹ (1798 BB Reverse C and 1798 BB Reverse F). See Figure 9.



**Figure 4 - 1796 \$2 ½ BD Rev A
16 White Stripes**



**Figure 5 - 1797 \$5 BD Rev K
8 Red / 8 White Stripes**

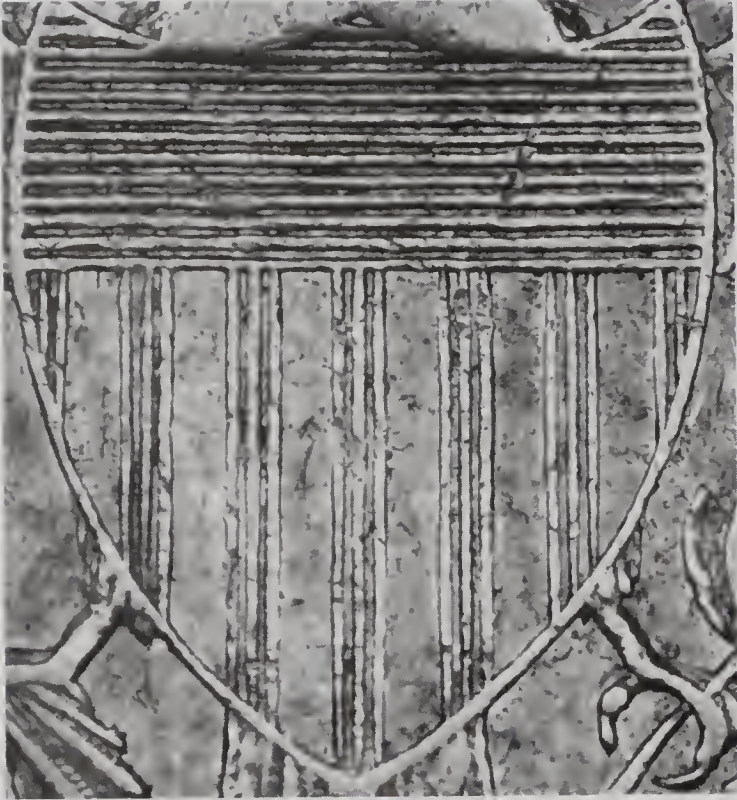


Figure 6 - 1797 \$10 BD Rev B
7 Red / 6 White Stripes



Figure 7 - 1798 10C Rev C
6 Red / 7 White (3 Line Pales)



Figure 8 - 1798 \$1 BB Rev G
6 Red / 7 White (4 Line Pales)



Figure 9 - 1798 \$1 BB Rev F
6 Red / 7 White (5 Line Pales)

1798 \$5 Reverse A & 1798 \$5 Reverse F

All but 2 of the Heraldic Eagle \$5 Half Eagle reverse dies had 3 vertical lines in each pale to represent the color gules. The 2 reverse dies that did not, 1798 \$5 Reverse A and 1798 \$5 Reverse F, had 4 vertical lines in each pale to represent the color gules. Why? I am a believer of the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) methodology, therefore I believe the additional vertical line in each pale was added by mistake.

Additional information can be implied from this mistake:

1. The Mint used the reverse dies with the mistakes because the value of a completed die was worthy of use, regardless as to whether it had engraving errors. Consider other dies with engraving errors that were used: Y/Star, A/E, E/A, S/D, 50/UNI, 25/50, 50/00, 5D/50, 14 stars reverse, 14th star in cloud, and 15 stars reverse, to name a few.
2. The pales were hand engraved on the working dies (at least during the early years of the Heraldic Eagle reverse). Additional research is required.

Pale / Argent Configurations: A Timeline

Refer to Table 1 for an overview of the 6 different pale / argent configurations, the number of dies that are known for each configuration, and the earliest and latest dates of any head die¹ that was used with the configuration.

Table 1: Pale / Argent Configurations On Heraldic Eagle Dies

# Pales / # Argent	Lines Per Pale	# Known Dies	Earliest Date On A Head Die ¹	Latest Date On A Head Die ¹
8 / 8 (attempted) 0 / 16 (actual) States Config	1	4	1796	1797
8 / 8 States Config	Pale 1: 2 lines Pales 2-8: 3 lines	3	1795 ⁶	1797
7 / 6 Flag Config	Pales 1 & 7: 2 lines Pales 2-6: 3 lines	3	1797	1798
6 / 7 Great Seal Config	3	66	1798	1807
6 / 7 Great Seal Config	4	101	1798	1807
6 / 7 Great Seal Config	5	2	1798	1798

Table 1 identifies that the pale / argent configurations most likely progressed as follows:

1796: (8 pales / 8 argent implemented as 0 / 16) ► 1797: (8 pales / 8 argent) ► 1797: (7 pales / 6 argent) ► 1798: (6 pales / 7 argent).

Based on the name that I assigned to each, the pale / argent configurations most likely evolved as follows:

States Configuration ► Flag Configuration ► Great Seal Configuration

Note that the 8 pales / 8 argent configuration appeared on the reverse dies used to strike 1795 and 1797 dated \$5 Half Eagles. I believe that the Heraldic Eagle Half Eagles dated 1795 were struck in 1797 or 1798, therefore the 8 pale / 8 argent configuration was first used in 1797 (and not 1795). Refer to my Article titled *Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis – Reverse Star Patterns* (JRJ, Volume 22 Issue 3, November, 2012) for additional information.

Why 8 Red / 8 White, 7 Red / 6 White & 6 Red / 7 White Stripes?

The standards for the flags, per the Flag Acts of 1777 and 1794, were 7 red and 6 white, then 8 red and 7 white stripes. Although a few flags had 6 red and 7 white stripes and other red/blue and red/white/blue combinations, the overwhelming majority of 18th century flags contained 7 red and 6 white stripes. So why were the overwhelming majority of the Heraldic Eagle reverse coining dies¹ created with 6 red and 7 white stripes? Why did some have 8 red and 8 white, and 7 red and 6 white stripes? Clues to the answers may come from analyzing the other devices on the obverses and reverses of the coins. Note the use of the weasel word *probably*.

1. All head dies¹ dated 1794 and 1795 and most head dies¹ dated 1796 had 15 stars, *probably* because there were 15 states in the union when the Mint began its coining operations. The 15th state, Kentucky, was admitted to the union on June 1, 1792. When the Mint transitioned to the Heraldic Eagle reverse in 1796, the number of obverse stars was increased to 16. The 16th star was *probably* added because Tennessee was admitted to the union on June 1, 1796. The 16 obverse star experiment was short lived, as the number of obverse stars was decreased to the 13 star standard in 1797.⁷
2. When the Heraldic Eagle reverse dies were first created in 1796, they had 16 stars above the eagle's head *probably* because there were 16 states in the union. The 16 reverse star experiment was short lived, as the number of reverse stars was decreased to the 13 star standard in 1797.⁸
3. Head dies¹ dated 1796 and 1797 had 16 stars.⁷ The first group of Heraldic Eagle reverse dies, that were mated with 1796 and 1797 dated head dies,¹ had 16 stars above the eagle's head.⁸ It therefore seems logical that the shield would also contain 16 stripes. Since there were 16 states in the union, 16 was *probably* the standard at this time.

4. In 1797, the 16 star standard was eliminated. Why? It is the belief of many numismatists that the Mint *probably* determined that there would not be enough room on the dies for more stars when additional states were admitted to the union. The number of obverse and reverse stars was therefore decreased from 16 to 13 to *probably* pay tribute to the 13 original colonies.^{7,8} Likewise, the number of stripes in the shield was also decreased from 16 to 13.
5. Once the standard of 16 stars and stripes was reduced to 13 stars and stripes, the Mint created dies with 7 red and 6 white stripes in the shield. This matched the configuration of the flags, with more red stripes than white stripes. It also made the eagle's shield a mixture of components from both the Great Seal of the United States and the United States flag. This configuration was a short lived experiment. After only 3 dies, the standard was changed to 6 red and 7 white stripes in the shield to *probably* match the configuration on the Great Seal of the United States.

Conclusion

Once the standard of 6 red and 7 white stripes in the shield was set, it did not change until 1964. All silver and gold denominations that had a shield on the obverse or reverse had 6 red and 7 white stripes:

- the Motto Over Eagle silver and gold denominations of 1807 – 1839,
- the Seated Liberty silver denominations of 1837 – 1891,
- the Liberty Head gold denominations of 1838 – 1908, and
- the Barber silver denominations of 1892 – 1916.

Beginning in 1964, the Kennedy Half Dollar had 7 raised solid stripes and 6 recessed solid stripes in the shield. It is unclear as to whether there are 7 red and 6 white, 7 white and 6 red, or 13 colorless stripes in the shield. Technically, per Heraldry, there are 13 argent (or white) stripes in the shield. Since Heraldry is no longer a significant art / profession in the United States, it is not surprising that the configuration violates the Rules of Tincture.

Notes

1. In late 1794 / early 1795, Robert Scot responded to questions posed “from the Committee appointed to examine and report on the state of the mint”. This handwritten document resides in the National Archives. What numismatists refer to today as “Master Die”, Robert Scot referred to as “Original Die”. “Hub” was spelled “Hubb”. “Working Die” was referred to as “Coining Die” or “Die To Strike Money”. “Obverse Die” was referred to as “Head Die”.

References

1. “A Diversity of Stars and Stripes, Variants of the American Flag Since 1775”, North American Vexillological Association News, Vol. 31 No. 2, Issue # 190, April-June, 2006.
2. “The 13 Stars And Stripes: A Survey Of 18th Century Images”, David Martucci, North American Vexillological Association, 2000.
3. Phrase from The Coinage Act of April 2, 1792.
4. Phrase from the Flag Act of June 14, 1777.
5. Phrase from the Flag Act of January 13, 1794.
6. I believe that the Heraldic Eagle Half Eagles dated 1795 were struck in 1797, and possibly in 1798. Refer to “Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis – Reverse Star Patterns”, David Finkelstein, JRJ, Volume 22 Issue 3, November, 2012.
7. “Bust Coin Obverse Star Patterns”, David Finkelstein, JRJ, Volume 22 Issue 2, August, 2012.
8. “Heraldic Eagle Die Analysis – Reverse Star Patterns”, David Finkelstein, JRJ, Volume 22 Issue 3, November, 2012.

Recent Discoveries of Contemporary Counterfeit Bust Half Die Marriages and Other Dynamics

Courtesy of cccbhcc.com

Discoveries of die marriages of contemporary counterfeit Capped Bust Halves continue to be made at a steady pace. These pieces were produced approximately at the date on the coin and were meant to pass in general circulation. The publication of **Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars**, 2nd Edition by Keith Davignon (September, 2010) listed a combined 339 struck and cast marriages. However, already by July 25, 2013 a census comprised of 702 contemporary counterfeit Capped Bust Halves identified 294 struck marriages and 66 cast marriages (plus two additional marriages that can not be determined if the specimens are either die struck or cast)!!

Continued die marriage discoveries though are not the only dynamic changing this field of numismatics. Additionally, rarity designation updates have been made for 15 marriages, plus there have been second specimen finds for 16 rare marriages for which only one specimen had been previously known as also identified in the July 25, 2013 census (this census can be found at (<http://cccbhcc.com/cccbh-census-.html>)). The dynamic level of activity is even more significant when considering that there is an estimated total of 2,500 to 10,000 surviving population of all contemporary counterfeit Capped Bust Halves in which considerably more than half of the total surviving population of bogus halves consists of only five to ten 'extremely common' die marriages.

Not to be lost though in all of these statistics of the dynamic changes in collecting Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Halves is the absolute thrill of being the discoverer of a previously unknown die marriage! After making sure that a suspect specimen is not a variation of a known die marriage (i.e. due to filled dies, multiple strikes, striking differences due to the planchet metal used, etc.) the excitement begins with the vetting process. Part of the sleuthing excitement is to find out if there are similarities to previously known die marriages, linking the die marriage discovery to possibly the same counterfeiter or group of counterfeiters. Seldom is the answer yes, but such groups are already speculated to exist and new group linkages continue to be established as well.

Take for example the die marriage of the 1834 20/T vetted in September, 2012 that is illustrated below. Discounting the test cuts in the 4 o'clock and 5 o'clock positions the specimen has an amazing incused numeral date!



The search for die marriage group similarities for the 1834 20/T proved to find one match, noted by the specimen's "puckered lips" Liberty and backwards letter U's in the slogan, to the 1833 22/V die marriage. The 1833 20/V illustrated below shows that both die marriages uniquely share "puckered lips" Liberties, similar yet with different right hairline profiles. Additionally, the backward letter U's used in both slogans appear to be from the same punch.



Other die marriage discoveries simply have an interesting history of how they were found. Such is the Civil War battle field metal detector find of the 1813 1/C that is illustrated below:



(Additional images and descriptions of discovered die marriages dated from 1813 to 1838 can be found on the Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Collectors Club website at <http://cccbhcc.com/new-discoveries.html>.)

Regardless if a die marriage discovery is the specimen that has been tucked away for decades as a sole novelty by a numismatist of genuine coins, or is an unearthed specimen like the 1813 1/C discussed above, the virtual "Red Book" is still actively being written for contemporary counterfeit Capped Bust Halves. This is still a numismatic field in which over 60% of all die marriages have a rare rarity rating designation* of only one or two known specimens, plus an additional 20% of all die marriages that have a very scarce rating designation* of only three to five known specimens.

* Rarity Designations - Each contemporary counterfeit Capped Bust Half die marriage is given a rarity designation based on the number of known surviving specimens. Rarity occurrence levels are defined as:

1-2 known specimens =

Rare with added distinction for only known example varieties
(noted as R for a census rarity update)

3-5 known specimens =

Very Scarce (noted as VS for a census rarity update)

6-9 known specimens =

Scarce (noted as S for a census rarity update)

10-19 known specimens =

Common (noted as C for a census rarity update)



Bust Quarter Census

by Glenn R. Peterson, MD

Welcome to the 2014 Bust Quarter Census. Our last census was volume 22/ issue 1 in May 2012.

The most important development since the last bust quarter census is the Heritage sale of the bust quarters from the Eric P. Newman collection. This sale was important in several respects. Many of the quarters sold were the original Browning plate coins illustrated in the Ard W Browning text **The Early Quarter Dollars of the United States Mint 1796-1838** published in 1925. These quarters were long believed to be missing but were rediscovered by Rory Rea on his visit with Eric Newman. The Rea, Peterson, Karoleff and Kovach 2010 deluxe edition of **Early Quarter Dollars of the United States Mint** documents these beautiful coins that were subsequently auctioned by Heritage Galleries November 15-16 2013.

In addition to the Browning pedigree of the Newman coins, many were finest known examples of the die marriages sold as documented in our 2010 reference mentioned above. Finally the prices realized were astonishing! The 1796 B2 plate coin from the sale realized \$ 1,527,500. In the following table I list highlights of the auction sale. The coins listed EQ plate are those in the 2010 edition. The 1818 B8 is graded Proof 67 and the 1834 B2 is graded Proof 66+ ultra cameo. It is incredible that Ard Browning photographed these special proof coins in 1925!

Table 1 Heritage Galleries Eric P. Newman coins

1796 B2	MS67+ star	EQ plate	finest		\$1,527,500
1804 B1	AU55 star	EQ plate		Browning	82,250
1805 B2	MS 63	EQ plate			41,125
1805 B4	MS 64+		finest		49,937
1806 B1	MS 66 star	EQ Plate	finest		152,750
1806 B3	MS 65 star	EQ plate	finest		94,000
1807 B1	MS 64 star	EQ plate			47,000
1807 B2	MS 66 star		finest		441,250
1815 B1	MS 67 star	EQ plate	finest		282,000

1818 B1	MS 67 star	EQ plate	finest	Browning	176,250
1818 B8	Proof 67	EQ plate	finest	Browning	381,875
1819 B2	MS 64			Browning	30,550
1819 B3	MS 64+	EQ plate		Browning	23,500
1820 B2	MS 66 star	EQ plate	finest	Browning	38,187
1820 B3	MS 64	EQ plate			29,375
1820 B4	MS 66+	EQ plate	finest	Browning	41,125
1821 B1	MS 65		finest		30,550
1825 B1	MS 64 star		finest		47,000
1825 B3	MS 66+star	EQ plate	finest	Browning	38,187
1828 B2	MS 65 star		finest	Browning	329,000
1828 B3	MS 67 star		finest		352,500
1831 B2	MS 67+	EQ plate	finest	Browning	117,500
1831 B5	MS 65	EQ plate	finest	Browning	32,900
1832 B2	MS 65	EQ plate		Browning	18,800
1833 B1	MS 65	EQ plate	finest	Browning	17,625
1833 B2	MS 66 star	EQ plate	finest	Browning	76,375
1834 B1	MS 66 star		finest	Browning	30,550
1834 B2	Proof 66+	EQ plate	finest	Browning	235,500
1835 B2	MS 76 star	EQ plate	finest	Browning	58,750
1836 B3	MS 67	EQ plate	finest		99,875
1837 B1	MS 66+ star	EQ plate	finest	Browning	47,000

This census lists the reported coins by the finest known examples for each die marriage as reported in the new references (Table 2), a listing of collections (Table 3), and the numbers reported in each grade (Table 4). The information is limited by the fact that not all advanced collectors have submitted their census in time to be included in this article.

Table 2. Finest Known Bust Quarters

YEAR	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	B10
1796	66	67								
1804	65	65								
1805	65	66	64	64	58					
1806	66	65	65	55	64	61	58	50	66	64
1807	67	65								
1815	67									
1818	67	67	67	66	65	64	60	67	58	65
1819	65	65	67	62						
1820	67	66	67	66	67					
1821	65	66	65	67	66	65				
1822	68	66								
1823	64									
1824	65									
1825	64	66	66							
1827	66	66								
1828	65	65	67	66						
1831	66	67	60	66	66	65	55			
1832	65	66								
1833	65	66								
1834	66	67	65	67	62					
1835	64	67	60	65	65	65	66	63		
1836	64	67	67	64	50					
1837	66	67	66	64	66	15				
1838	68									



1807 B2 NGC MS66



1815 B1 NGC MS67+

Newman Collection, Photos Courtesy Heritage Auctions

Table 3. Bust Quarter Census

Year	B#	Rarity	589	282	1029	323	1068	853	LM 56	869	1039	1054	1195	457	RPD	AVG	MAX
1796	1	4+	8	12								1			3	7	12
	2	3	8	12	3		3	3				10			6	7	12
1804	1	3	12	30	20	8	6	25			3	35			8	17	35
	2	5	8	15		10	3	3				4			6	7	15
1805	1	4+	18	12	40	10	6	12	15	8	4	58			10	18	58
	2	2	40	10	55	35	8	4	8	8		58			9	25	58
	3	2	8	15	50	8	6	12	10	4	15	58			10	19	58
	4	4-	30	10	58	4	4	12	8	8	4	62			10	20	62
	5	5+	20	6	10	10	4	4	8			45		6	9	13	45
1806	1	2	20	12	20	6	4	30	8	12	4	55			10	17	55
	2	2	18	10	61	12	4	10	8	10	12	25			10	17	61
	3	1	40	25	55	8	6	35	6	8	12	58		10	11	24	58
	4	4-	18	12	50	6	8	15	8	8	12	58		8	11	18	58
	5	4+	40	12	20	35	10	10	6	20		58			9	23	58
	6	5	20	25	45	20	6	12		8		55			8	24	55
	7	5	30	10	58	55	8	10	3	8		58			9	27	58
	8	6	30	15	8	8						50			5	22	50
	9	1	15	25	58	8	3	15	12	8		50			9	22	58
	10	5	35	30	25	12	8	4	6	6		15			9	16	35
1807	1	2	45	35	58	4	6	20	18	10		63			9	29	63
	2	3	25	15	25	6	8	8	10	6	12	58		4	11	16	58
1815	1	1	58	20	53	20	15	35	55	12	12	15	55	25	12	31	58
1815E	1		50			58		53		50			58		5	54	58
1815L	1					55		55					45		3	52	55
1818	1	2	62	40	50	12	15	35	15	10	8	53	55	8	12	30	62
	2	1	50	25	55	12	30	58	25	20	12	50	55	12	12	34	58
	3	3	50	12	55	12	20		15	12			58	25	9	29	58
	4	3	62	12	40	8	4	55	20	8	35	50	58	8	12	30	62
	5	4+	40	40	45	12	15	45	8	10	12	30	55	8	12	27	55
	6	4+	15	30	58	12	6	20	12	15	30	35	58	12	12	25	58
	7	4+	45	30	55	8	30	8	15	15	10	15	50	4	12	24	55
	8	3	50	20	58	20	30	12	8	12	20	58	55	4	12	29	58
	9	4+	30	45	58	10	3	20	12	4		45	58	8	11	27	58
	10	3	45	20	35	12	30	12	8	8	4	58	58	12	12	25	58
1819	1	5-	25	50	58	30	30	8	35	6	12	20	55	8	12	28	58
	2	3	50	30	45	8	35	15	20	12	8	62	55	8	12	29	62
	3	1	20	20	55	10	20	10	20	10	45		58	12	11	25	58
	4	4+	50	15	45	8	10	10	30	4		35	58	8	11	25	58
1820	1	4+	40	10	58	10	20	45	35	12	12	45	58	30	12	31	58
	2	2	45	12	58	20	30	35	15	10	20	12	58	8	12	27	58
	3	3	20	10	50	8	30	20	15	12	8	20	55	8	12	21	55
	4	2	20	10	20	8	20	35	12	15	40		58	8	11	22	58
	5	5	40	20	25	10	4	4	15	4		15	53		10	19	53

Year	B#	Rarity	589	282	1029	323	1068	853	LM 56	869	1039	1054	1195	457	RPD	AVG	MAX
1821	1	2	30	15	62	12	20		20	15	8		55	8	10	25	62
	2	5	30	10	61	15	20	10	25	12	6	55	50	12	12	26	61
	3	2	40	25	45	15	20	53	20	8	20	63	58	8	12	31	63
	4	3	45	10	63	55	12	30	8	20	10	12	58	8	12	28	63
	5	4+	63	8	63	10	20	8	30	10			58	8	10	28	63
	6	7	30		8	3							20		4	15	30
1822	1	2	35	12	50	25	20	30	12	15	35	15	55	4	12	26	55
	2	5	8	8	3	8	4					6	58		7	14	58
1823	1	6		8								8	50		3	22	50
1824	1	3	40	10	58	40	8	30	8	10	8	55	53	7	12	27	58
1825	1	5	18	50	58	20	10	20	10	6	30	58	55	8	12	29	58
	2	2	35	40	20	20	20	30	18	8	30	40	55	12	12	27	55
1825E	2		55			55							58		3	56	58
1825L	2		40			50		45					55		4	48	55
	3	3	35	20	35	15	30	12	18	20		53	58	4	11	27	58
1827	1	7											62		1	62	62
	2	6+													0	0	0
1828	1	1	63	58	50	45	15	10	18	8	15	15	58	8	12	30	63
	2	5-	55	10	63	8	15	20	10	8	8	50	58	12	12	26	63
	3	5-	35	12	8	10	3	8	3	8	15	58	58	4	12	19	58
	4	3	50	10		20	30	12	15	12	4	55	50	12	11	25	55
1831	1	3	40	55	58	35	40	20	30	25	30				9	37	58
	2	2	40	20	63	40	30	45	35	35					8	39	63
	3	5	48	20	55	45	12	12	35						7	32	55
	4	1	40	50	45	45	45	30	30	20	40				9	38	50
	5	2	50	58	64	35	50	53	35	20	15				9	42	64
	6	3	45	20	62	35	40	62	45	40		45			9	44	62
	7	5+	40	8	45	12	4	4	30			4			8	18	45
1832	1	2	50	12	58	58	55	40	45	40					8	45	58
	2	2	45	30	58	40	50	30	30	15	58				9	40	58
1833	1	2	45	40	63	53	40	50	35	20	50				9	44	63
	2	4-	40	45	58	45	45	12	40	12					8	37	58
1834	1	1	45	35	55	45	53	15	45	25	50				9	41	55
	2	4	40	25	58	50	45	30	45	30	45				9	41	58
	3	3	30	25	55	55	45	45	30	20	50	55			10	41	55
	4	1	45	30	58	62	45	55	40	20	40	40			10	44	62
	5	5	35	40	62	35	35	45	35	15					9	38	62
1835	1	1	45	40	55	35	50	50	35	25	40				9	42	55
	2	2	50	40	62	55	40	45	45	40	50	62			10	49	62
	3	4+	40	40	58	45	25	20	50	30					9	38	58
	4	1	35	40	55	30	30	40	20	30	20				9	33	55
	5	3	58	45	58	40	50	30	20	25	40				9	41	58
	6	3	40	40	61	35	10	30	35	35	20	30			10	34	61
	7	2	45	20	62	40	50	40	40	40	20	55			10	41	62
	8	5-	40	30	63	55	50	20	30	15	20				9	36	63

Year	B#	Rarity	589	282	1029	323	1068	853	LM 56	869	1039	1054	1195	457	RPD	AVG	MAX
1836	1	3	45	45	55	50	20	12	25	30	40				9	36	55
	2	2	35	45	58	35	30	40	18	35	20				9	35	58
	3	1	35	20	62	30	30	45	35	45	45				9	39	62
	4	4	45	40	64	40	45	45	35	35					8	44	64
	5	6+	15	40	45	15		20	6						6	24	45
1837	1	4	40	35	62	50	45	20	35	20	12				9	35	62
	2	1	40	40	58	40	35	45	15	25	50				9	39	58
	3	4	45	20	64	40	15	15	30	45					8	34	64
	4	3	35	25	63	15	40	45	40	20	15				9	33	63
	5	5	50	35	63	58	53	8	35	30					8	42	63
	6	8	15		12										2	14	15
1838	1	1	50	50	58	30	45	55	35	30	40				9	44	58
MARRIAGES OWNED AVERAGE GRADE			589	282	1029	323	1068	853	LM 56	869	1039	1054	1195	457	96 known DIE MARRIAGES		
			93	92	90	90	88	86	84	81	60	59	38	37			
			37	25	49	26	23	26	23	18	23	40	55	9.7			



1820 NGC MS64



1834 B2 NGC PR66+ Ultra Cameo

Newman Collection, Photos Courtesy Heritage Auctions

Table 4. Bust Quarter Census by Grade

Year	B#	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	total
1796	1	4+	1	1	1					3
	2	3	5	3	1					9
1804	1	3	3	2	1	5				11
	2	5	4	2	1					7
1805	1	4+	5	5	6		1	1		18
	2	2	3	5	2	2	1	2		15
	3	2	2	4	3	1		2		12
	4	4-	3	7	2	1		1	1	15
	5	5+	4	3	1	1	1			10
1806	1	2	3	1	4	2		1		11
	2	2	2	6	2	1			1	12
	3	1	3	4	4	2	1	2		16
	4	4-	1	3	4		1	2		11
	5	4+	8	3	3	4	1	1		20
	6	5	4	2	3	3	1	1		14
	7	5	2	8		1		3		14
	8	6		2	1	1		1		5
	9	1	5	2	3	2		2		14
	10	5	4	1	3	2				10
1807	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	1	12
	2	3	6	2	4	2		1		15
1815	1	1	1	9	7	6	2	6		31
	1						1	5		6
	1						1	2		3
1818	1	2	2	5	5	3	2	6	3	26
	2	1	5	2	9	7	2	7		32
	3	3	1		6	2		2		11
	4	3	2	4	4	2	3	9	1	25
	5	4+	1	2	5	1	5	1		15
	6	4+	4	3	4	5	2	2		20
	7	4+	3	7	4	3	1	3		21
	8	3	2	3	7	5		7	1	25
	9	4+	3	3	1	2	2	3		14
	10	3	5	3	2	4	3	3		20
1819	1	5-	3	2	3	7	1	2		18
	2	3	3	8	3	4	2	2	1	23
	3	1	1	4	3	4	3	2	1	18
	4	4+	4	10	2	2	2	3		23
1820	1	4+	3	4	6	5	5	2		25
	2	2	2	1	5	4	1	2	1	16
	3	3	5	6	2	4		3		20
	4	2	2	3	3	5	1	1	1	16
	5	5	3	3	3	2	2	1		14
1821	1	2	1	3	4	3	1	2		14
	2	5	3	2	3	3		2	1	14
	3	2	2	5	2	5	3	5	1	23
	4	3	1	6	4	3	3	6	2	25
	5	4+		9	5	1	1	2	2	20
	6	7	1	1		2				4

Year	B#	Rarity	AG/G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	total
1822	1	2	1	2	6	4	1	3		17
	2	5	3	3	1			1		8
1823	1	6		2				1		3
1824	1	3	4	5		3	1	3		16
1825	1	5	2	5	2	3	1	6		19
	2	2	1	5	8	8	2	6	1	31
	2		3	6	4	9	2	6	1	31
	2							3		3
	3	3					2	2		4
1827	1	7							1	1
	2	6+								
1828	1	1		6	2	1	1	5	2	17
	2	5-	1	5	2	1	2	2	1	14
	3	5-	3	4	3	2		2		14
	4	3	1	1	8	4	1	5		20
1831	1	3	1			7	3	2	1	14
	2	2				9	2	1		12
	3	5			3	4	4	1		12
	4	1	1	2	3	8	4	2	2	22
	5	2		3	1	5	1	5	1	16
	6	3		1	2	1	4		2	10
	7	5+	2	2	1	4	1			10
1832	1	2			1	2	4	5		12
	2	2			3	5	3	3	1	15
1833	1	2				7	5	2	1	15
	2	4-			6	1	5	1		13
1834	1	1	1	1	3	4	5	4	1	19
	2	4	1		3	9	5	2		20
	3	3	1			7	2	4		14
	4	1				6	5	3	2	16
	5	5			2	7	2		1	12
1835	1	1			2	5	7	3		17
	2	2	1		4	4	8	3	2	22
	3	4+				5	2	2		9
	4	4	1			9	3	1		14
	5	3	1		2	8	5	3		19
	6	3	1	1	2	8	2	1	1	16
	7	2		2	2	2	7	1	1	15
	8	5-		2	2	7	2	2	1	16
1836	1	3			2	9	4	2		17
	2	2	2	1	1	10	2	1		17
	3	1		1		8	4	1	1	15
	4	4			2	4	6		1	13
	5	6+	1		3	1	1			6
1837	1	4	1		1	7	3	1	1	14
	2	1		1	1	6	7	4	1	20
	3	4			3	3	3		1	10
	4	3			8	6	3		1	18
	5	5		1	2	5		3	1	12
	6	8			2					2
1838	1	1		1		8	3	4	1	17

Total Reported in All Grades 1495



A New Bust Half Remarriage in 1827

By Dave Rutherford

Background. A remarriage happens when an obverse and reverse die are used to create a marriage, then joined with other working dies to create a different marriage and finally rejoined to strike more of the original marriage. Possibly the remarriage can be identified by observing changes in the states of the dies such as the progressions of cracks, loss of dentils and filling of letters. If obverse die 1 and the reverse dies A & B are used to produce the marriages 1A, 1B and 1'A in that order then a remarriage has *happened*. If some detail of the 1 die can be identified to show that marriage 1A was struck before marriage 1B and marriage 1B was struck before marriage 1'A then we have *identified* the remarriage.

The candidates. Overton¹ says that 1827 O.135 was struck using obverse die 22 and reverse die AA. The illustrated obverse shows all the milling and the description indicates “late die states show little milling and all stars and numbers in date drawn to edge”. 1827 O.124 used obverse die 17 and reverse die T. The illustration for this marriage shows about half the milling present and stars drawn to the edge. The illustration agrees with the description. Overton identifies 1827 O.124a, obverse 17-s2, as the “same as 17 except that all stars are drawn solidly to edge and no milling remains”. The Overton appendix, “Index of Multiple Year Use Dies”, indicates that “1827 Obv 17 = 1827 Obv 22”.

The remarriage. Leamen and Gunnet² say that 1827 O.135 was struck immediately before 1827 O.124. Study of the die states of the shared obverse die will show that a remarriage exists. Early strikes of O.135 show all the milling present – Figure 1.



Figure 1. O.135 AU 58



Figure 2. O.124 XF 45

Figure 2 shows an early strike of 1827 O.124; note the deterioration of the die. It was clearly struck after the coin in figure 1. Figure 3 is of an 1827 O.135 intermediate die state, *some* milling and all stars and numbers in the date drawn to the edge. Figure 4 shows a late state of 1827 O.135 with *no* milling and all stars and date numbers drawn to the edge.



Figure 3. O.135 XF 45



Figure 4. O.135 XF 40

The obverse die has continued to wear until no milling remains. Figure 5 is of an 1827 O.124a; again like the late die state O.135 in figure 4, no milling and stars and numbers in the date drawn to the edge.



Figure 5. O.124a XF 40-

The following table gives the figures in strike order with the corresponding marriage.

Figures in Striking order	Die marriage
Figure 1	O.135
Figure 2	O.124
Figure 3	O.135
Figure 4	O.135
Figure 5	O.124a

It is clear from the table that a remarriage exists between 1827 O.135 and 1827 O.124. Obverse 17/22 was first paired with reverse AA and used to produce O.135; the obverse die wore and then was paired with reverse T to strike O.124. The obverse die wore some more and was then remarried with reverse AA to produce later states of O.135. At a yet later time in the life of obverse 17/22 it was again remarried with reverse T and struck O.124a.

What cannot be determined from the table is which came first, the O.135 late die state with no milling or the O.124a, again with no milling. Depending upon this order there could be a double remarriage. Only with large number of examples of each marriage to study would it be possible to determine the correct ordering.

An aside. It would seem that there should be a “a” variety for the 1827 O.135, similar to what exists for 1827 O.124, that recognizes the late die state with no obverse milling and stars and numbers drawn to the edge.

References:

1. Ivan Leaman and Donald Gunnet. “America's Silver Coinage 1794-1891, Edges and Die Sequences on Early Half Dollars” in Coinage of the Americas Conference, American Numismatic Society, New York, NY 1987.
2. Al C. Overton. "Early Half Dollar Varieties 1794-1836". Third Edition, Edited by Donald L. Parsley, Escondido, California 1990

Editor's note:

Additional information on remarriages can be referenced in previous JRJ articles; Issues are referenced by whole number:page number; ie; 22:19.

Capped Bust Half Dollars:

22:19 A Bust Half Die Remarriage by Russell J. Logan

24:27 Another Bust Half Dollar Remarriage by Bradley S. Karoleff

37:38 Another 1828 Remarriage by Van Harvey

Capped Bust Half Dimes:

18:26 1829 V4, V5 and V17: A Palindromic Emission Sequence? by Alan J. Bricker

19:26 More Multiple Marriages...A Triple-Double Reverse Die by Mark Smith

26:8 Another Remarriage in the Capped Bust Half Dime Series by Stephen A. Crain

52:24 Understanding Capped Bust Half Dime Die Remarriages by Richard Meaney



1795 B-6, BB-21 Silver Dollar with “Three Leaves Under the first S in STATES” - Most have Four Leaves

by W. David Perkins, NLG

In 1952 Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, Louisiana purchased a 1795 Flowing Hair silver dollar that he graded VF+ for \$110.00 from coin a dealer named R. Green in Chicago, Illinois, probably through the mail. This was only a year or two after M. H. Bolender's new book, *The United States Early Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803*, was published. Stirling had trouble attributing this coin despite having a copy of Bolender's silver dollar book. The \$110.00 Stirling paid for this coin was 2-3X times the price of a common 1795 FH dollar.

Bolender did not have an example of this Flowing Hair silver dollar. His extensive early dollar reference collection was sold at public auction in February 1952. Bolender began collecting the early dollars by die marriage and die state in the early 1900s.

Early Dollar specialist Kenneth P. Austin of Salisbury, Maryland diligently searched for an example of this particular 1795 FH silver dollar. He sold his early dollar die variety collection privately to Bolender in 1959. The collection did not have a specimen of this 1795 FH dollar rarity when sold.

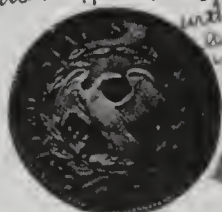
In the early 1950s, W. Earl Spies of Maryland made a note at the bottom of his Bolender silver dollar book on page 18, “18 NEW 13-18 18 3 (*Check mark*) leaves 3!!! (by S); OBV=13;” Spies eventually managed to acquire an example. Spies' early dollar die variety and die state collection was sold at public auction by Stack's in December 1974. [*Spies' example was called 1795 B-18 in the 1974 sale and was offered as Lot 19.*]

W. G. Baldenhofer, Emanuel Taylor, Roland Willasch, Woody Blevins, and other early dollar specialist collectors from the 1940s through 1960s were not able to find or acquire an example. Most likely all of them had their eyes open *for one like this*.

Jules Reiver searched for an example for over 30 years, as did many other collectors from his generation. None were ever found.

B. 18
NEW VARIETY OF 1795 SILVER DOLLAR
 The first discovery of a new major variety of an early silver dollar before 1804 has recently been made, two years after the publication of Bolender's standard reference book on the subject which was published in July 1950.
 The credit for this new discovery goes to Frank M. Stirling, A.N.A. member 10052, of 2919 Fairfield Ave., Baton Rouge 7, La., and the thrills of his finding, and pride of ownership are making his specialty most interesting. Mr. Stirling is one of the most active collectors in this field.

This 1795 dollar, to be known as Bolender No. 18, was struck from the rare obverse die as used for B. 13. The reverse was struck from a newly made die with only three leaves on the wreath below the first S in STATES. Later, a fourth leaf was added to the die and B-5, B-6, and B-12 coins were struck.



This coin will rate rarity 8, as it is the only one known to me up to this time. When the book was published over two years ago, it was hoped that other new varieties would be brought to light. Some minor sub-varieties have appeared and always will, as there are so many different states of the dies, such as die cracks and their degrees of progress, extent of bifurcations, and peculiarities of striking. But a new die, or a new combination of obverse and reverse dies, constitutes a major variety and the constant search for things of this kind in any series keeps collectors forever young.

— M. H. BOLENDER, A.N.A. 2776
 San Marino, California



1840-1849, - real proofs USED to compare often! But they seem to have found originals & substitutes alike, into museum creature hands. (Most of them from Col. & H. originally) Most "proofs" sold are, any other do not come up often enough.

STATES DOLLARS



OBV = B12

Reverse = B7

4-12-55

B19

Rev 341

7 berries

8 berries



Bolender's Outerberry believes T & E in States very closely of Leaf almost touches before Leaf touches 1st S in States under right foot of A in St Leaf nearly touches 2nd feather Triple leaf under C.

Spies book rarities page

This page with information and photos on "four R-8 die marriages of 1795 (and a couple for 1796)" was photo copied from W. Earl Spies Bolender Book. Two of the 1795 marriages are unique. At the top left is the Bolender article with photo on the discovery of the new 1795 B-18 silver dollar ('95 B-6 with three leaves under the first S in STATES). Like other serious collectors, Spies was looking for the rare die marriages along with new die marriages and die states. Photo courtesy of the Spies family.

Early dollar die marriage collectors who began their collections in the 1970s and 1980s also looked for an example. None of us ever found one. Even the Miller Collection, which is complete with examples of all of the 118 known die marriages of silver dollars 1794-1803, does not have a specimen.

Stirling, upon discovery, likely believed he had found a new die marriage, one not listed in the Bolender book. Bolender confirmed this in *The Numismatist* December 1952:

NEW VARIETY OF 1795 SILVER DOLLAR

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This coin will rate rarity 8, as it is the only one known to me up to this time. When the book was published over two years ago, it was hoped that other new varieties would be brought to light. Some minor sub-varieties have appeared and always will, as there are some many different states of the dies, such as die cracks and their degrees of progress, extent of bifurcations, and peculiarities of striking. But a new die, or a new combination of obverse and reverse dies, constitutes a major variety and the constant search for things of this kind in any series keeps collectors forever young.

M. H. BOLENDER, ANA 2776
San Marino, California

Some to this day still believe what Stirling had discovered was a new die marriage for the 1795 Flowing Hair dollar. Arguments can, and have been, made for, and against, this being a new die marriage.

What Stirling had discovered was a 1795 Bolender-6 (B-6, BB-25) Flowing Hair silver dollar struck from a reverse die with only "3 leaves under the first S in STATES." The plate in the Bolender book showed the **1795 B-6 reverse with "4 leaves under the first S in STATES."** Otherwise, the dies matched up pretty well at first glance, at least as far as you could see from the Bolender plate photos.

I had unsuccessfully tried to find and acquire an example of this variety over a span of nearly two decades. In April, 2005 I was contacted by the Stirling family to appraise *what was left of* Frank Stirling's early silver dollar die marriage collection from 1794-1803, 25 early dollars having been sold earlier at the Heritage 1986 A.N.A. *Mid-Winter Auction* sale. As it turns out, the Stirling Discovery Specimen for this variety had not been sold, having remained with the Stirling family all these years.

I finally had the opportunity to see an example, this one secure in an old plastic Capital holder! But I didn't have much time to study the coin in any detail during the appraisal process, nor did I have the other uses of the obverse and reverse die used in striking this coin with me or as part of the collection I was appraising. But I now had seen an example of this variety, most likely something that no other living numismatist at this time had done.

Q. David Bowers in his *Silver Dollars of the United States, a Complete Encyclopedia* (1993), not having seen and studied an example, called this Die State I, noting:

Die State I:....Obverse die unlapped (i.e., in an early state). Early state of obverse and reverse dies. This die state was discovered by Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and was reported by M.H. Bolender in the December 1952 issue of *The Numismatist*. At the time it was considered to be from an entirely new die, and the designation "Bolender-18" was given to it.

A footnote on page 213 of the Bowers book and under the 1795 BB-25, B-6 die marriage read:

During the preparation of this book, the 3-leaf and 4-leaf situation became a point of discussion when it was realized that conventional wisdom (per 5th edition of the Bolender book, and other writing) was that this reverse die was made with three leaves under the first S of STATES, but in a *later state*, a 4th leaf was added. As Thomas K. DeLorey and Harry Salyards, M.D. pointed out, and as the author and Mark Borckardt had been contemplating, it defied all known Mint practice of the era to add an extra leaf or similar feather to an already work-hardened die. This would have been a complicated process which hardly would have been undertaken to "fix" something as innocuous as a cluster of leaves. Mark Borckardt finally said in a note to the author, "Thou shalt not overlook the obvious"-and proposed that a piece of foreign matter clogged one leaf in the die, a basic situation which has occurred many times throughout American coinage history, and which has caused various design elements, mintmarks, etc., to be weak or to disappear.

I had an old photo of this coin and for years believed that it was stuck from a later die state, not an earlier one. And I always was doubtful that the die had been *clogged* as there was no sign of the fourth leaf and the other three leaves under the first S in STATES were "fully formed."

As it turns out, this coin is a later die state of 1795 B-6, BB-25, the die was extensively reworked, and the fourth leaf was added!

In September, 2006 the Stirling Specimen was offered to me. I quickly purchased it. It had *only* taken me 20 years to acquire a specimen of this extreme rarity!

In May, 2007 I borrowed all of the *related* 1795 FH die marriages that I didn't have from JRCS member Fred Hagemeyer (thanks again Fred!). These were needed to determine the proper emission sequence. I took the Stirling Discovery Specimen and the die marriages that I had borrowed from Fred to the joint EAC / JRCS Convention in St. Louis. I wanted to get feedback on this coin from experts and researchers that had studied other early coinage and die marriages - copper, gold and other silver denominations. I publicized all of this prior to EAC, and I invited anyone attending this Convention to look at this group of coins while there, and to offer their thoughts and theories on what had taken place at the mint back in 1795, before and after this particular silver dollar was struck. The joint EAC / JRCS Convention proved to be the perfect setting for this project.

A number of experts studied this group of coins at the EAC Convention. In particular, John Dannreuther spent a lot of time studying the different uses of the obverse and reverse dies that I had at the table and was instrumental in helping solve this mystery.

John Dannreuther published our discoveries in a feature article titled, "How Far Would The Mint Go?" in the PCGS *Rare Coin Market Report* (the PCGS Magazine), July 2007. John compiled a truly great article on this, and included many great photographs taken by PCGS.

[Most JRCS members are probably not familiar with John Dannreuther's article, or the PCGS magazine where it was published in. I encourage anyone with an interest to find a copy of John's article, and to study it.]

Following is a summary of what we concluded:

The obverse and reverse dies used to create the 1795 B-6, BB-25 die marriage were first used to strike the 1795 B-6, BB-25 die marriage, **with three leaves under the first S in STATES** on the reverse. The lower right foot of the R in LIBERTY was struck from a "broken" R punch. There are only two specimens known to me, the Stirling Specimen and the Spies Specimen.

Next, this obverse die was mated with a new reverse die and the very rare 1795 B-13, BB-24 die marriage was born. The foot of the R in LIBERTY has *yet* to be repaired.

At some point the reverse die used first in striking 1795 B-6, BB-25 was mated with a new obverse die and 1795 B-12, BB-26 (R-5+) was created. **The reverse die with three leaves under the first S in STATES has been "repaired," and the fourth leaf under the first S in STATES has been added.** Many of the central veins of the leaves in the eagle's right wing have been noticeably reworked (strengthened) with a graver. Most notably this can be seen in the eagle's right wing (on the right as you view the coin). **The leaves now have some of their detail on the top of the wing!** *Contrast the photos of the early die state and later die states of this reverse die – the right wing is clearly struck over the wreath in the original state of the dies.* In this later die state you can see some of the leaf detail above the wing! In addition, at times the graver slipped, and some of the stems extend through the leaf tips and into the field. Dannreuther notes that this graver slip was not uncommon when the engraving department worked on the early dies. Lastly, there is now a small reverse die crack at the end of the left branch.

After this, the reverse die that had been repaired and used in striking the B-12, BB-26 die marriage was mated to another obverse die, this time producing 1795 B-5, BB-27.

The repaired reverse die was next remarried with the now repaired obverse die that was previously used to strike 1795 B-6, BB-25 and B-13, BB-24. The R in LIBERTY has now been repaired, with the lower right foot of the R in LIBERTY now extending fully down and to the right.

The reverse die was ultimately remarried to the 1795 B-5, BB-27 obverse die and additional examples of 1795 B-5, BB-27 were struck. [1795 B-5, BB-27 *is a relatively common die marriage.*] In later die states, there is a reverse die crack from the branch to the edge, and eventually the die is lapped and some of the graver lines are removed and the leaves appear "hollow."

It is now possible for us to understand the notes mentioned earlier in Spies copy of the Bolender book. You'll recall that Spies noted on page 18, "18 NEW 13-18 18 3 (Check mark) leaves 3!!! (by S); OBV=13;" Spies was noting that the new marriage was called B-18, that it shared the same obverse die used for the B-13 die marriage, and that there were 3 leaves under the first S in STATES (vs. the four leaves normally seen).

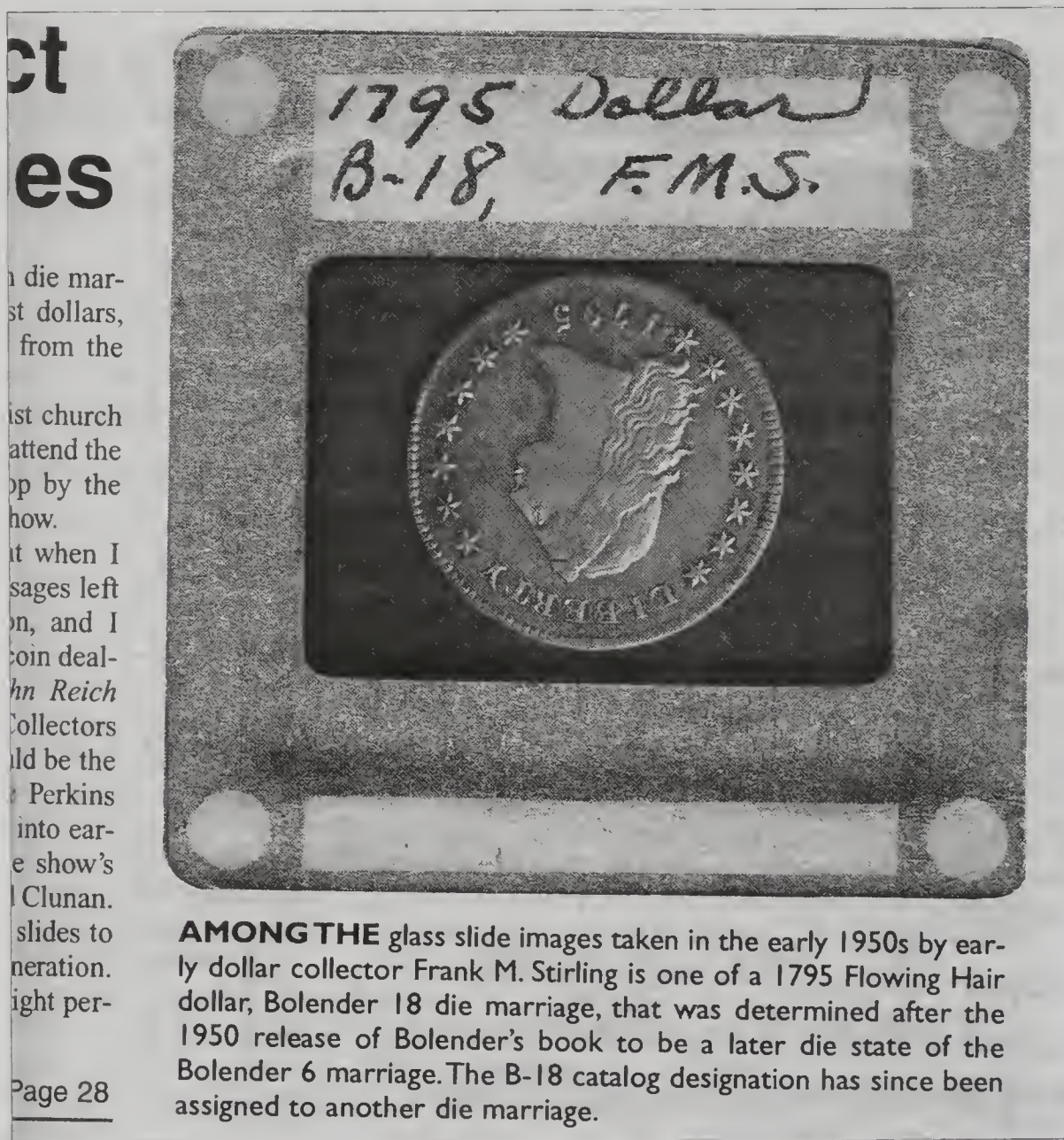
PCGS has termed the 1795 B-6, BB-25 die marriage with the reverse having three leaves under the first S in STATES the "Missing Leaf" variety and has given it a unique PCGS coin number (# 148300). PCGS also added this "Missing Leaf" variety to the more advanced PCGS Early Silver Dollar Registry Set.

At the ANA Convention in August 2006 I was paged by Paul Gilkes of *Coin World* and Brad Karoleff, JRCS Editor. Paul introduced me to the Rev. Russell S. Clunan II, a Methodist minister and collector from Denham Springs, La. The Rev. Clunan had a box of glass (negative) photographic slides including eight slides of early U.S. silver dollars.

I knew what two of the slides were even before the box was handed to me. Yes, one was a 1795 B-6 silver dollar (with four leaves under the first S in STATES)

and the other was labeled 1795 B-18 (which is the 1795 B-6 die marriage with three leaves under the first S in STATES)!

I put the two slides together and looked at them into the light – they were perfectly aligned. Frank Stirling was a professional photographer for Exxon, and these slides were created by him to help determine if this was a new die and die marriage.



Coin World Article on Slides

Photo of Photographic (Glass) Negative Slide from Paul Gilkes article on the Stirling Slides showing up at the August 2006 ANA Convention. The slides for the "1795 B-18" (B-6, early die state) dollar with three leaves under the first S in STATES aligned perfectly with the later die state slide for the 1795 B-6 dollar.

Photo courtesy of Paul Gilkes and Coin World.

I believe this is what finally convinced Stirling that this was not a new die marriage, but instead was an early die state of a die that later was extensively reworked (repaired). [For more details on these slides, please see Paul Gilkes' article, "*Photographic slides depict early silver dollar die marriages*" in *Coin World*, Monday, September 18, 2006, page 5, and continued on page 28.]

Jules Reiver presented a paper titled "Early U.S. Silver Dollars" at the October 30, 1993 *Coinage of the Americas Conference* at the American Numismatic society in New York. In a section discussing die state studies, Jules stated,

K.P. Austin, who bought the entire Bolender Collection, offered me an unlisted 1795 variety, for a very high price. I checked it, and decided that it was merely a die state. I took color slides to prove my point, and drove to Louisiana to argue with Frank Stirling, a true dollar specialist, who had told me that the new variety was valid. I set up the projector and started to show slides. When Frank saw what I was about to show him, he said, "Shucks, Jules, I was just pulling your leg. Emanuel Taylor told me that it was a die state in 1926." [Sic. *More likely this was in 1956. Also, K. P. Austin bought the 1795 Dollars in the Bolender collection and two other die marriages, not the entire collection. I have Austin's copy of the sale catalog and auction settlement for this 1952 Bolender Sale in my Library.*]

SILVER DOLLARS

WANT LIST

W.G. Baldenhofer

1795 8-9-9a-11-12-16-17-18-19
 1796 3
 1797 1c
 1798 6b-11b-14a-18-22-24-25a-26-28
 1800 2
 1802 9
 1803 2-3

WANT LIST

W. Earl Spies

1795 3-10-11-12-16-17 18
 1796 3
 1797 1a-
 1798 1-2a-~~3~~-6a-9-10-11a-12a-14-16-18
 25a-~~26~~-28(exactly as in B)
 1799 ~~3~~-6-7a-8-~~9~~-~~10~~-15a
 1800 5-5a-12a-~~13~~-16a-~~20~~ 8A
 1801 1
 1803 2-~~3~~

STIRLING HAS

1795 1-2-4-5-9-12a-13-14-15-18-12
 1796 1-5-5a
 1797 1a-3
 1798 1-4-23a-25b-27
 1799 1-3-7a-9a-11b-12a-16-17a-21
 23
 1800 2-14a-15-16
 1801 1-4
 1802 1-3-4-6-9a
 1803 1-5-6-6a

KP Austin Notebook Want Lists

This is a copy of a page out of one of K. P. Austin's silver dollar notebooks. The notebook is small enough to fit in a coat pocket and be carried on the bourse. The book contains lists, notes, and photographs of early dollar die marriages. This particular page lists the want lists of fellow early dollar collectors W. G. Baldenhofer and W. Earl Spies, who both "want" a 1795 B-18 (Missing Leaf) dollar! Note Frank Stirling has a 1795 B-18 dollar. This notebook is from the 1950s. I acquired this notebook from Mrs. Ostheimer. The Ostheimers had acquired this book from Bolender when they purchased, by private treaty, the early dollar collection of K. P. Austin.

The 1795 B-6 dollar with three leaves under the first S in STATES that was offered to Jules Reiver by K. P. Austin is most likely the specimen that was in the collection of W. Earl Spies when the Spies Collection was sold by Stack's in December 1974. The Stirling and the Spies examples remain the only two specimens known to me today. If Jules' memory was correct, then K. P. Austin likely found an example of this die marriage with three leaves under the first S in STATES, possibly after the sale of his collection to Bolender (and the Ostheimers) in 1959-60. It appears that he may have sold it to his friend, W. Earl Spies!

John Dannreuther closed his article with,

Other previously used dies are known to have been removed from service, changed, and then placed back into the presses and produced thousands of more coins. In fact, the year 1806 saw the repunchings of this date over three different 1805-dated dies. The quarter, half dollar, and quarter eagle all have 1806/5 strikings from dies that originally struck coins dated 1805.

Knowledge is an evolution and the examination of the evidence sometimes leads to surprising conclusions. The complete reworking of already used dies had been doubted, but we now know it was done. Undoubtedly, more examples of dramatically repaired early Mint dies will be found in the future.

If anyone would like to see the original article by John Dannreuther from the PCGs magazine please contact me at wdperki@attglobal.net



1795 B-6, BB-25 with 3 leaves PCGS Photo

Obverse and reverse photos of the Stirling Discovery Specimen of the early die state of 1795 B-6, BB-25 silver dollar with the reverse having only 3 leaves under the first S in STATES. This is the first use of this obverse die and reverse die. Note the right foot of the R in LIBERTY is damaged, that there are only three leaves under the first S in STATES, and the right eagle's wing (as you view the coin) appears struck over the wreath and leaves.

Photo courtesy of PCGS.



1795 B-6 with 4 leaves PCGS photo.

Obverse and reverse of the later die state of the 1795 B-6, BB-25 die marriage. Compare this later and "repaired" die state of the 1795 B-6, BB-25 dollar with the photo of the 1795 B-6 earlier die state photo. Note the R in LIBERTY has been repaired (lower right foot has been lengthened) and there are four leaves (vs. three) under the first S in STATES. Next, compare the eagle's right wing on both photos – on the later die state, the eagle's right wing appears with "ghosting" from the stem centers being strengthened in the area where the right wing (as you view the coin) overlaps the leaves. On the earlier die state the wing appears to be struck over the leaves. *Photo courtesy of PCGS.*

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